THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The required information is being obtained from the Commissioner Food & Drugs Administration, Maharashtra and Director, Drugs Control Administration, West Bengal, under whose jurisdiction the firms in question are located and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Substandard drugs sold in Maharashtra

1218. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Times of India' Bombay edition of 27th March, 1986 under the heading "688 substandard drugs sold.";

(b) whether it is a fact that the Food Drug Administration, Maharashtra have reported that during 1984-85, 688 medicines of substandard quality were sold in the State of Maharashtra;

(c) whether it is a fact that number of medicines are being released untested in the market of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the number of drug manufacturing units in the country who do not possess testing laboratories; and

(e) what are the methods under which the quality of these manufacturers i.e. ensured?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, Maharashtra, has intimated that in the year 1984-85 out of of 4,726 samples tested during the year 688 samples were reported to be not of standard quality. Out of these 688 samples 445 were manufactured in Maharashtra State. They have further intimated that it is not true that the drugs manufactured in Maharashtra are released for sales without testing.

(d) The Central Government is not aware of drug testing facilities of small scale manufacturers numbering more than 9,000, for whom the State Governments are the licensing authority. As per available information, large scale drug manufacturers have their own testing facilities.

(e) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules, each drug manufacturer is required to test the drug manufactured by him and maintain necessary testing records. The Central and State Government laboratories test samples of those drug drawn by the Drug Inspectors or those sent by the Courts.

Production of Tunidazole and Turbutline Sulphate in the Country

1219. DR. JOSEPH LEON D' SOUZA: SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of drug companies which have been licenced to produce Tunidazole and Turbutline Sulphate under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act;

(b) whether the quality produced in the country of these drugs is in accordance with the standards laid down as per pharmacoposeia;

(c) whether Government had drawn the samples of imported material of these drugs before allowing the clearance:

(d) if so, what are details thereof; and

(e) what was the total quantity imported of these two drugs in the country separately during the last three years, and what was the average CIF price of each, during the same period year-wise?